

# Plant Health Conference Programme

## Plant collections and their importance in enabling ground breaking collaborative research

**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018, 10:00 – 16:00

**At:** Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ

### Objectives

Tree health is increasing in its importance with growing numbers of pests and pathogens having a significant impact on the UK's trees and forests. The Living Ash Project sought to identify and secure ash trees that showed tolerance to *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus* so as to use them in a future breeding programme.

This conference will present the results of the Living Ash Project and report on some exciting new research approaches using genomic selection for identifying characteristics such as disease tolerance, faster growth or superior timber quality. The research collaborations that have relied upon access to collections of trees; and the need for collections such as Paradise Wood will be highlighted.

<b>10:00</b>	<b>Refreshments and Registration</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
<b>10:30</b>	Welcome & overview	<b>Dr. Jayne Manley</b> CEO of Earth Trust
<b>10:40</b>	The role of tree health research in ensuring the resilience of our treescape	<b>Lord Gardiner of Kimble</b> Defra Minister: Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity
<b>10:50</b>	Forestry perspective: The value of trees to our society, the role of research and how we need to think differently	<b>Sir Harry Studholme</b> Chair of the Forestry Commission
<b>11:10</b>	The Living Ash Project: Introduction and overview	<b>Dr. Jo Clark</b> Earth Trust
<b>11:25</b>	Findings from the Living Ash Project	<b>Dr. Jo Clark and Living Ash Project Partners</b> (Earth Trust, Forestry Research, Sylva Foundation, Future Trees Trust)
<b>11.45</b>	Traditional plant breeding meets 21 <sup>st</sup> Century genomics: Could disease tolerance genes give new life to Ash?	<b>Prof. Richard Buggs</b> Senior Research Leader (Plant Health) Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
<b>12:00</b>	New Tree Resilience and Ash Dieback Research Strategies	<b>Lisa Smith</b> Head of Tree Health Policy & Plant Health Evidence & Analysis DEFRA
<b>12.15</b>	Summary of the morning - Questions - Key points to carry over lunch and into the afternoon	<b>Dr. Mary Barkham</b> Trustee of Earth Trust
<b>12.30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	
	<b>Future Research – important questions</b>	All

<b>13:20</b>	The value of tree collections: Structure for the afternoon	<b>Dr. Jayne Manley</b> Earth Trust
<b>13.30</b>	Making a future from the past: Herbaria are central to conserving biodiversity in the face of major, urgent environmental change.	<b>Prof. Stephen Harris</b> Druce Curator of Oxford University Herbaria University of Oxford
<b>13.55</b>	The Role for Collections: Objectives and achievements of the UK National Tree Seed Project and what makes a good collection	<b>Clare Trivedi</b> UK Conservation Partnerships Co-ordinator Royal Botanic Garden Kew
<b>14:20</b>	Conclusions: Paradise Wood and Earth Trust Tree Collections: The opportunity	<b>Dr. Jayne Manley</b> <b>Mary Barkham</b> Earth Trust
<b>14.45</b>	Walking workshop: Paradise Wood, Broad Arboretum and Neptune Wood  Key questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we identify the collections we need to maintain and care for?</li> <li>• How can we make plant collections more accessible for researchers, for engaging people in the key challenges we face</li> </ul>	<b>Earth Trust</b>
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Tea and end of conference</b>	